(c) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Requests have been received to continue Central assistance, beyond 31.03.2007, to the projects sanctioned under the Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES) and the Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS). Although APES and TCIDS were merged into the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) in July, 2005, Central assistance to the projects sanctioned under the APES and TCIDS continued to be provided out of the budget for SITP during the 10th Five Year Plan. The Government is not averse to discharging its committed liability for the projects sanctioned under APES and TCIDS.

The initial target of 25 Textile Parks was increased to 30 Textile Parks in the 10th Five Year Plan and 30 projects have already been approved.

**Promotion of handloom weavers in North East**

3807. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for development and promotion of handloom weavers in North Eastern Region, particularly in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the number of handloom weavers benefited by this scheme; and

(c) the details of funds allotted and utilized under the scheme for NER including Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India, during the Xth Plan, had been implementing a number of schemes/programmes for the development and promotion of handloom weavers of the country including State of Sikkim. These schemes, *inter alia,* were;

(i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana
(ii) Handloom Export Scheme
(iii) Marketing Promotion Programme
(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme
(v) Integrated Handloom Training Project
(vi) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

(vii) Design Development Training Programme

(viii) Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Programme

(ix) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

(x) Health Insurance Scheme

However, in order to enable flow to assistance to the weavers in a coordinated and concerted manner, it is proposed to implement the following five schemes in the XIth Plan for the benefit of the handloom weavers including the weavers of Sikkim:

1. Integrated Handloom Development Scheme.

2. Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme.

3. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

4. Mill Gate Price Scheme.

5. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

(c) No State-wise allocation of funds are made under the schemes. For the Xth Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 142.20 crore was allocated for North Eastern Region out of which Rs. 109.37 crore was utilized. Rs. 4.97 lakh was released in favour of the State of Sikkim.

**NIFT at Kannur in Kerala**

3808. SHRI P.R. RAJAN:
SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has proposed to start a centre of National Institute of Fashion Technology at Kannur;

(b) whether the Ministry has given any assurance to the Kerala Government for setting up of the said Institute;

(c) whether Government have conducted a feasibility study in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) what steps have been taken in this regard; and

(f) by when the institute is going to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A proposal was received from Government of Kerala regarding setting up of NIFT Centre in Kannur with a request to forward guidelines for establishment of NIFT Centre. Government of Kerala were informed that the proposals for opening of new NIFT Centre